

1690.5(e)

Dear Issue Team Members and Intergovernmental Partners:

This letter is to remind you about the final Issue Team meeting scheduled for May 17, 2004 at the Juniper Golf Club. It will be the final meeting of the Issue Team prior to publication of our Final Upper Deschutes Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Management Plan. I would like to acknowledge the contributions of all of you in making this Resource Management Plan a thoughtful, community-based effort to resolve the issues that affect public lands as an inevitable consequence of the rapid population growth we are experiencing.

The Issue Team members in the Focus Groups and Preferred Alternative Subcommittee have spent many hours since mid-April working to consensus on the proposals for change to the Preferred Alternative. A summary of the topics addressed and the consensus agreements developed during that process is included with this letter. If you would care for a bit more detail on the meetings, the notes are available on our web site or a hardcopy by request. I am pleased to say that we were able to reach consensus on all of the topics presented!

The focus of our meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> will be to briefly present a summary of the discussion and agreements on each of those topics to you. An agenda for that meeting is also enclosed with this packet. You will have the opportunity to talk with the Subcommittee and Focus Group members and BLM staff concerning the proposed changes, and to identify any concerns you may have about the consensus reached by the Subcommittee.

I want to commend the Subcommittee and Focus Group members for all of their efforts during this challenging process. Many have taken the time to attend all of the meetings, contributing a variety of perspectives and valuable discussion about the interests and concerns of user and conservation groups, local residents, and governments. While the process may challenge us all, I think it will result in a better long-range strategy and offer us new opportunities for creative implementation. Thanks for all of your dedication.

Sincerely,

/S/ Robert B. Towne

Robert B. Towne  
Field Manager, Deschutes Resource Area

2 Attachments

- 1- Agenda (1p)
- 2- Preferred Alternative Subcommittee Summary of Consensus (6pp)